

CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator: Julia Pagnamenta	Team: Squad #2	CCRB Case #: 201910039	<input type="checkbox"/> Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Discourt.	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S.
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abuse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O.L.	<input type="checkbox"/> Injury
Incident Date(s) Monday, 11/18/2019 4:40 PM	Location of Incident: Cross Bay Boulevard and Rockaway Freeway	Precinct: 100	18 Mo. SOL 5/18/2021	EO SOL 1/2/2022	
Date/Time CV Reported Mon, 11/18/2019 5:25 PM	CV Reported At: CCRB	How CV Reported: Call Processing System	Date/Time Received at CCRB Mon, 11/18/2019 5:25 PM		

Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Address

Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command
1. POM Bruce Knight	19808	950691	100 PCT

Witness Officer(s)	Shield No	Tax No	Cmd Name
1. POM Genaro Gabbe	16240	957607	100 PCT

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
A.POM Bruce Knight	Off. Language: Police Officer Bruce Knight made remarks to § 87(2)(b) based upon his religion	
B.POM Bruce Knight	Abuse: Police Officer Bruce Knight threatened § 87(2)(b) with the use of force.	

Case Summary

On November 18th, 2019, § 87(2)(b) filed the following complaint via the Civilian Complaint Review Board's Call Processing System.

On November 18th, 2019, at approximately 4:40 p.m., Police Officer Bruce Knight and Police Officer Genaro Gabbe of the 100th Precinct stopped § 87(2)(b)'s vehicle at Cross Bay Parkway and Rockaway Freeway bridge in Queens. Police Officer Knight issued § 87(2)(b) six summonses for § 87(2)(b) (Board Review 01). After issuing § 87(2)(b) the summonses, Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe returned to their vehicle.

§ 87(2)(b) allegedly exited his vehicle and walked to the police vehicle after receiving the summonses to ask why he had received them and Police Officer Knight allegedly stated, "I hate the Muslims," and "You are the terrorist." Police Officer Knight allegedly told him his beard made him look like Bin Laden; that he was wearing a Bin Laden cap on his head; that § 87(2)(b) was in the Bin Laden family; that Muslims had caused 9/11; and that Muslims did not have the right to live in the United States, and were against the United States. (**Allegation A: Offensive Language–Religion–Muslim,** § 87(2)(g)). Police Officer Knight also allegedly threatened to shoot § 87(2)(b) if he did not get back into his car and leave. (**Allegation B: Abuse of Authority–Threat of Force–Verbal,** § 87(2)(g)).

Body-worn camera (BWC) footage from Police Officer Gabbe and Police Officer Knight was obtained for this incident and is attached in IAs #55 and #56 (Board Reviews 02 and 03) and is summarized in IA #58 (Board Review 04).

Findings and Recommendations

Allegation (A) Offensive Language: Police Officer Bruce Knight made remarks to § 87(2)(b) based upon his Religion.

Allegation (B) Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Bruce Knight threatened § 87(2)(b) with the use of force.

§ 87(2)(b) provided a telephone statement on November 26, 2019 (Board Review 05) and was interviewed at the CCRB on December 4th, 2019 (Board Review 06). Police Officer Knight was interviewed at the CCRB on January 2nd, 2020 (Board Review 07). Police Officer Genaro Gabbe was interviewed at the CCRB on January 9th, 2020 (Board Review 08).

It is undisputed that Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe pulled over § 87(2)(b) at Cross Bay Parkway and Rockaway Freeway bridge; that Police Officer Knight issued § 87(2)(b) six summonses; and that after issuing § 87(2)(b) the summonses, both Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe returned to their marked vehicle.

In dispute is whether § 87(2)(b) approached the officers' vehicle after the officers returned to their vehicle after issuing the summonses.

§ 87(2)(b) stated there was an unknown female passenger in the taxi at the time of the incident, but he was unable to provide any identifying or contact information for her. § 87(2)(b) stated the passenger did not interact with the officers.

§ 87(2)(b) stated that after Police Officer Knight issued him the six summonses and he returned to the police vehicle, § 87(2)(b) walked to the police vehicle to ask why he had received the summonses. From the police car window, Police Officer Knight stated, “I hate the Muslims,” and “You are the terrorist.” § 87(2)(b) stated that Police Officer Knight told him that his beard made him look like Bin Laden; that he was wearing a Bin Laden cap on his head; that he was in the Bin Laden family; that Muslims had caused 9/11; and that Muslims did not have the right to live in the United States, and were against the United States. § 87(2)(b) stated that Police Officer Knight then threatened to shoot him if he did not return to his car and leave. When § 87(2)(b) stated he would go to court and seek justice, Police Officer Knight told him, “Go to hell.”

Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe’s statements were generally consistent with each other and both stated that they asked § 87(2)(b) to pull over following a near collision on Rockaway Freeway bridge. Police Officer Knight stated that he did not remember how § 87(2)(b) had been dressed the day of the incident and denied that the topic of § 87(2)(b)’s physical attire came up. Police Officer Knight denied telling § 87(2)(b) that his beard and the cap on his head made him look like Bin Laden. Police Officer Knight stated that the topic of § 87(2)(b)’s religion did not come up. Police Officer Knight denied calling § 87(2)(b) a terrorist and telling him he was part of the Bin Laden family. Police Officer Knight denied telling § 87(2)(b) that Muslims had caused 9/11; that Muslims did not have the right to live in the United States; and that Muslims were against the United States. Police Officer Knight denied telling § 87(2)(b) he would shoot him if he did not go back to his car. Police Officer Knight denied telling § 87(2)(b) to “Go to hell.” Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe denied any further interaction with § 87(2)(b) after Police Officer Knight issued § 87(2)(b) the six summonses. Throughout their interaction with § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(b) did not exit his taxi before or after being issued the summonses. After Police Officer Knight issued § 87(2)(b) the six summonses, the two police officers returned to their vehicle, and § 87(2)(b) drove away.

In both Police Officer Knight and Police Officer Gabbe’s BWC footages, § 87(2)(b) is not recorded getting out of his taxi. At runtime 19:35, after Police Officer Knight has handed § 87(2)(b) the six summonses, he tells § 87(2)(b) to “Drive safe” and “Go ahead of us right now.” The last verbal interaction between Police Officer Knight and § 87(2)(b) is captured at runtime 19:48, when § 87(2)(b) asks, “How many summonses?” and Police Officer Knight replies, “I gave you I think six. All right, drive safe.” Police Officer Knight’s BWC footage ends at runtime 19:57, after he has handed § 87(2)(b) the six summonses and is walking back to the police vehicle situated behind § 87(2)(b)’s taxi. By the time Police Officer Knight’s BWC footage ends, it is not known whether § 87(2)(b)’s taxi has driven away, as Police Officer Knight’s BWC is facing the police vehicle.

Police Officer Gabbe’s BWC started filming the incident as he was still driving and ended approximately a dozen of seconds after Police Officer Knight ended his BWC footage. Police Officer Gabbe’s BWC footage ends when the two police officers have entered the police vehicle and Police Officer Gabbe is about to start driving. At runtime 21:11, Police Officer Knight tells Police Officer Gabbe, “I told him to go ahead of us,” referring to § 87(2)(b). However, by the time Police Officer Gabbe’s BWC ends at runtime 21:14, § 87(2)(b)’s taxi remains visible from the police vehicle’s windshield.

§ 87(2)(g)
[REDACTED]

§ 87(2)(g)

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- § 87(2)(b) has been a party to one other CCRB complaint in Case # § 87(2)(b) in which § 87(2)(b) was a victim. § 87(2)(b)
- Police Officer Bruce Knight has been a member of service for eight years and has been a subject in four CCRB complaints and seven allegations, none of which were substantiated.

§ 87(2)(g)

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- § 87(2)(b) rejected mediation.
 - According to the New York City Office of the Comptroller, no Notice of Claim had been filed regarding this incident as of February 7th, 2020 (Board Review #10).
 - § 87(2)(b)
- #11).

Squad No.: _____

Investigator: _____
Signature Print Title & Name Date

Squad Leader: _____
Signature Print Title & Name Date

Reviewer: _____
Signature Print Title & Name Date